

Today 1.4 billion people live without access to modern energy services, severely limiting their opportunities for social and economic development. The impact of this limited energy access is particularly pronounced in the agricultural sectors of developing countries, where it affects every aspect of the agricultural value chain, from irrigation and harvesting to processing and storage. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 80% of the additional food required to feed the world in 2050 will come from agricultural intensification —

the process of producing more food on the same parcel of land₁. Increasing access to clean energy is critical to sustainably intensifying agricultural production and meeting growing global food demand.

What barriers are limiting progress in this area? In many locations, farmers and agribusinesses aren't aware of the clean energy technologies that might increase productivity/profitability of their operations, and even where there is demand, few examples exist of proven business models that can link clean energy enterprises with farm communities and agribusinesses. Where technologies are available, many do not match the performance and/or price points required in emerging markets. These constraints are compounded by a lack of available credit for distributors of clean energy products and services, and for customers interested in purchasing these clean energy products.

To address these barriers, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with the Government of Sweden, Duke Energy, USDA, OPIC, and AfDB to launch *Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC)*. The PAEGC program pools over \$20 million, with the goal of increasing clean energy access and supporting economic growth in the developing world through funding and support for market-based clean energy innovations for farmers and agri-businesses. Through your clean energy solutions, this program will result in enhanced food security and increased economic resiliency in communities throughout the developing world.

In its first round of funding, Powering Agriculture is offering awards of between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000 for projects that develop innovative technical and business solutions for expanding clean energy access to farmers and agribusinesses.

To learn more about this opportunity and to find information on how to apply for funding, please visit: www.PoweringAg.org. Grant applications will be accepted from 1/15/13 to 2/6/13 5PM EST.

Be Part of the Solution











